

List of the Claims:

This listing of claims in the application is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:
 - a process at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;
 - a process at a server for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;
 - a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;
 - a process at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;
 - a process at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;
 - a process at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;
 - and
 - a process at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.
2. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein said process for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that received said voice data.

3. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein:
said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and
said process for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after a transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.
4. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein :
said process for generating said reception result adds an ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and
said process for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.
5. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 1, wherein
said process for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on a data form of said voice data.
6. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:
a process at a terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than ~~the~~ a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;
a process at a server for receiving said utterance data;
a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a process at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a process at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

7. (Previously presented) A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein said process for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

8. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 6, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

9. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:

a process at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a process at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending voice data indicating said voice;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

10. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation.

11. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

12. (Original) A voice communications method according to claim 9, comprising:

a process at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a process at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said process for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

13. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:

a process at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a process at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than ~~the~~ a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a process at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a process at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for generating and sending said voice data;

a process at said server for receiving said voice data;

a process at said server for sending said voice data to said voice receiving terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for generating and sending a reception result of said voice data;

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a process at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said reception result for indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

14. (Currently amended) A voice communications system comprising:

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at a server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;

and

a means at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

15. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein said means for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that received said voice data.

16. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein:
said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after a transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

17. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein :
said means for generating said reception result adds an ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and
said means for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

18. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 14, wherein said means for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on a data form of said voice data.

19. (Currently amended) A voice communications system comprising:

a means at a terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than ~~the~~ a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at a server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data; a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

20. (Previously presented) A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein said means for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

21. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 19, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

22. (Currently amended) A voice communications system comprising:

a means at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending voice data indicating said voice;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

23. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation.

24. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

25. (Original) A voice communications system according to claim 22, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a means at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

26. (Currently amended) A voice communications method comprising:

a means at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than ~~the~~ a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for generating and sending said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said voice receiving terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for generating and sending a reception result of said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said reception result for indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

27. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;

a means at a server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;

and

a means at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

28. (Previously presented) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said means for indicating said reception state indicates said reception state by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that received said voice data.

29. (Previously presented) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein:

said reception result is an ACK message or a NACK message; and

said means for indicating said reception state indicates that said voice data was correctly received if said ACK message was received within a predetermined period of time after a transmission of said voice data, and indicates that said voice data was not correctly received if said NACK message was received within said predetermined period of time or if no message was received within said predetermined period of time.

30. (Previously presented) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein :

said means for generating said reception result adds an ID of the terminal that received said voice data to said reception result; and

said means for indicating said reception state indicates said ID along with said reception state.

31. (Previously presented) A recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said means for generating said reception result generates said reception result based on a data form of said voice data.

32. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at a terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than ~~the~~ a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at a server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;

a means at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and

a means at ~~the~~ said predetermined terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

33. (Previously presented) A recording medium according to claim 32, wherein said means for indicating said utterance indicates said utterance by indicating an action of an avatar of a user of the terminal that sent said utterance data.

34. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 32, wherein the server for processing said utterance data and the server for processing said voice data are different.

35. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending voice data indicating said voice;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

36. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from said predetermined terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation.

37. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation if said designation is within the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal, or discards said designation if said designation is outside the authorized limits of the predetermined terminal.

38. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 35, comprising:

a means at a predetermined terminal for designating permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal; and

a means at said predetermined terminal for sending said designation to said server if the designation is within the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal, and discarding said designation if the designation is outside the authorized limits of said predetermined terminal;

wherein said means for storing stores the designation sent by said predetermined terminal.

39. (Currently amended) A recording medium for recording programs for causing a computer to function as:

a means at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;

a means at a voice input terminal at which voice is input for generating and sending utterance data, which is shorter than ~~the~~ a voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;

a means at said server for receiving said utterance data;

a means at said server for sending said utterance data to a voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for receiving said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said utterance data for generating and sending said voice data;

a means at said server for receiving said voice data;

a means at said server for sending said voice data to said voice receiving terminals to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from ~~the~~ said voice input terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data;

a means at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said voice data for generating and sending a reception result of said voice data;

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal from which data is permitted to be sent to the terminal that sent said reception result for receiving said reception result; and

a means at ~~the~~ said voice receiving terminal that received said reception result for indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.